



RIVERSIDE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM



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A NEW NAME FOR A NEW MISSION

Dr. Vince Moses, Director of the Metropolitan Museum, is proud of the new name of his organization. The City Council recently changed it from Riverside Municipal Museum to Riverside Metropolitan Museum, to reflect the real growth in the Museum's reach and responsibilities. Moses says the name Metropolitan more appropriately represents what the Museum does, and has done for a while now. "Riverside is growing fast as a community, and so are we," he said, "and that growth has implications for the quality of life here, both environmentally and culturally, for good and otherwise." Moses says the mission of the Museum is to provoke thought about, and elucidate the history, of this change, and it's meaning for the metropolitan area the Museum serves.

"A large component of the population is very new, and hungry for a sense of place," Moses argues. He is proud that the Museum's stewardship responsibilities in this arena took on a national profile with the acquisition of the Harada House National Historic Landmark in August 2004. "This property and the story it tells go to the heart of what it means to be an American under the 14th Amendment," Moses said, "and our stewardship of the site adds to the City's mission of building an inclusive community, here and within the metropolitan reach of the City."

As the principal cultural and natural history Museum in this region, Moses says, the Metropolitan Museum has come to recognize that its responsibilities have vastly expanded, while the physical configuration has not. The last major expansion took place in 1966, at the current Downtown site, leaving the Museum today woefully short of space and resources necessary to meet the accelerating demand from the regional population, or to care for its growing collections. "Riverside City Council has recognized the role of an expanded Museum in place-making for Riverside," Moses states, "and has mandated an architectural feasibility study, by Ratio Architects of Indianapolis, Indiana." The Ratio study will determine where and how the Metropolitan Museum can best build the experience-based regional Museum people demand, and that the City wants for its role as the hub of culture and the arts in this area.

Under its new name and expanded direction, the Metropolitan Museum will continue to expand its exhibition and program repertoire to fulfill the needs of Riverside's diverse community. On September 8, 2005, the Museum will open a new exhibition titled *The Chicano Collection / La Colección Chicana: Fine Art Prints by Modern Multiples*. Spearheaded by Cheech Marin, this traveling exhibition utilizes sophisticated digital printing to create limited-edition portfolio sets of 26 archival-quality giclée prints. "Using the most advanced technology available today, we are creating these important artistic expressions of the American experience as 'time capsules' to embed into top U.S. art collections and to expose them to the widest audience possible" said



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project advisor and collaborator, Cheech Marin. The prints depict urban life and the Chicano experience and date between 1969 and 2001. Paintings selected to be reproduced as prints and displayed at the Metropolitan Museum are primarily drawn from Marin's collection and include artists Carlos Almaraz, Frank Romero, Patssi Valdez, George Yepes, Rupert García, Leo Limón, Margaret García and Eloy Torrez.

A new series of family oriented programs will supplement new, changing exhibitions at the Museum as well as provide dynamic opportunities for families to explore our region's cultural and environmental heritage. New monthly programs such as "Good Morning Museum" for preschoolers, "Discovery Days" for grade-school youth, and informal family learning experiences such as Museum Outpost and Nature Lab are just a few of the Museum's new opportunities for learners.

Moses says the community's increasingly diverse and young population demands more interactive family based Museum and heritage experiences that help make sense of this City and the surrounding region. They are anxious to understand the complex cultural diversity that makes up the area, and the Museum is committed to that end. Moses is, therefore, anxious to make the proposed expansion happen, and dedicated to a transparent public process that will build the region the kind of user-driven natural and cultural history Museum it wants, a Riverside Metropolitan Museum for the 21st century.

As stewards of regional heritage, the Riverside Metropolitan Museum promotes an inclusive and livable community by providing dynamic hands-on family oriented programs and exhibits to encourage greater understanding and public access to the community's rich environmental and cultural heritage. Celebrating its 80th anniversary, the museum is working with the community to expand and modernize. This new initiative has spurred the City of Riverside to rename the Museum. Now known as the Riverside Metropolitan Museum, this new name is a reflection of the real growth in the museum's reach and responsibilities.

To learn more about the Museum's plans for expansion and view the Museum's new programs and exhibitions, visit the Metropolitan Museums website at www.riversideca.gov/museum. The Metropolitan Museum also lists events and programs at the new Inland Arts website at www.inlandarts.com.

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